

John Hardman, Maryland 400 veteran

John Hardman (1752-1780)

Sergeant, First Maryland Regiment, 1776

Lieutenant, Second Maryland Regiment, 1777-1780

Captain, Second Maryland Regiment, 1780

John Hardman was born in early 1752. [1] At age twenty-four, in early 1776, Hardman enlisted as a sergeant in [Edward Veazey's](#) Seventh Independent Company. [2] He was five feet, eight inches tall. Many of those in the Seventh Independent Company were recruited from Kent, Cecil, and Queen Anne counties, and were in the twenties. [3] Overall, the average age was about twenty-five, but soldiers born in the thirteen colonies were slightly younger than those from foreign countries. [4]

Sergeants, like Hardman, had important roles in the Maryland Line. As non-commissioned officers, their duties included maintaining discipline within their company, and inspecting the new recruits. [5] Their other duties included carrying sick soldiers to the hospital as needed, reporting on the sickness of men within the ranks, and leading groups of men to guard prisoners or supplies if circumstances required it. [6] For these services they were paid more than corporals in Maryland, who they oversaw, and worked with, to keep order in place in the company, including breaking up disputes between soldiers. [7] In order to get in this position, however, their field officers or captains had to recommend them for promotion. [8]

The independent companies, early in the war, had a different role than William Smallwood's First Maryland Regiment. They had the role of securing the Chesapeake Bay's shoreline from British attack. Smallwood's men, on the other hand, were raised as full-time Maryland soldiers as part of the Continental Army, and were divided between Annapolis and Baltimore. The Seventh Independent Company was stationed in Kent County's [Chestertown](#) and Queen Anne County's [Kent Island](#). [9] During this time, Veazey was uneasy that they did not receive "arms nor ammunition" until June. [10]

While the independent companies were originally intended to defend Maryland, three of them accompanied the First Maryland Regiment when it marched up to New York in July 1776. The transfer of the independent companies to the Continental Army showed that Maryland was more than willing to do its part to recruit the men needed. [11] The independent companies and the First Maryland Regiment arrived in New York in early August, with the Battle of Brooklyn set between the Continental Army and the British Army, joined by their Hessian allies.

Hardman served with his company at the Battle of Brooklyn in late August 1776. Along with the companies of [Daniel Bowie](#) and [Peter Adams](#), which suffered heavy casualties, sixty-eight percent of Veazey's company were killed or captured. Specifically, Captain Veazey was killed while Second Lieutenant [Samuel Turbett Wright](#) and Third Lieutenant [Edward De Coursey](#) were captured. [12] As a result of Veazey's death, First Lieutenant [William Harrison](#) took charge of the company. After the battle, only 36 men remained out of the original force of over 100. [13] The loss of life confirmed the assessment of the British Parliament's *Annual Register* which [described](#) how "almost a whole regiment

from Maryland...of young men from the best families in the country was cut to pieces" even as the battle brought the men of the Maryland 400 together. [14]

The Battle of Brooklyn, the first large-scale battle of the war, fits into the larger context of the Revolutionary War. If the Maryland Line had not stood and fought the British, enabling the rest of the Continental Army to escape, then the Continental Army would have been decimated, resulting in the end of the Revolutionary War. This heroic stand gave the regiment the nickname of the Old Line and those who made the stand in the battle are remembered as the Maryland 400.

Hardman survived the Battle of Brooklyn and was not taken prisoner. In late December, he escorted prisoners from North Carolina to Baltimore Town. [15] While in a Baltimore jail, the Baltimore County Sheriff John Ross, who had "very friendly conversation with the Prisoners," became drunk, and called for "damnation to General Washington & his army & success to Lord Howe & his army." As he drank more, he wished "damnation to General or Lord Howe." Ross "appear'd a little groggy at the time" as he spoke these words. [16] Ross, the Baltimore sheriff, later appeared at a meeting of the Baltimore Council of Safety in January 1777. [17] The council members told him to come to the next meeting since Hardman was not there to reaffirm his case. Further information about the story is not known.

By the spring of 1777, the command of the Seventh Independent Company was uncertain since Wright and De Coursey were prisoners, Veazey had been killed, and Harrison had resigned. [18] As a result, the company, among with the other independent companies, became part of the Second Maryland Regiment. Hardman reenlisted in the Second Maryland Regiment in December of 1776. [19]

Hardman became a second lieutenant in the Second Maryland Regiment on April 10, 1777. [20] He stayed as a lieutenant, engaging in routine duties such as accounting for deserters, recruiting individuals for military service, and keeping track of those on the muster roll. [21] He also served in the light infantry for a short stint in the fall of 1778. As a result, he likely fought in the battles of [Brandywine](#) (1777), [Germantown](#) (1777), [White Marsh](#) (1777), and [Monmouth](#) (1778). In April 1780, he became a captain in the same regiment, marching with the rest of the regiment southward. [22]

On August 16, 1780, at the [Battle of Camden](#), he was mortally wounded. Fifteen or sixteen days later, he died of his wounds, at age 28, reportedly as a prisoner of war in Kershaw County, South Carolina, where the battle occurred. [23] A five years after his death, a payment certificate was delivered to the unnamed legal representatives of John Hardman. [24] Years later, Hardman was recognized by the War Department and had a fort in Maine named in honor of him. [25]

- *Burkely Hermann, Maryland Society of the Sons of American Revolution Research Fellow, 2016.*

Notes

[1] [Descriptions of men in Capt. Edward Veazey's Independent Comp](#), 1776, Maryland State Papers, Revolutionary Papers, MdHR 19970-15-36/01 [MSA S997-15-36, 1/7/3/13]. In the descriptions of men in Veazey's company, Hardman is described as age 24. The roster says "Hurdman," but other records say Hardman, so that is used in this biography.

[2] [Descriptions of men in Capt. Edward Veazey's Independent Comp](#); Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 18, [28](#); Mark Andrew Tacyn, "'To the End:' The First Maryland Regiment and the American Revolution" (PhD diss., University of Maryland College Park, 1999), 34.

[3] Tacyn, 24-25, 97.

[4] For more information, see "[Demographics in the First Maryland Regiment](#)" on the Finding the Maryland 400 research blog.

[5] James Thacher, *A Military Journal During the American Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783* (Boston: A Richardson and Lord, 1823), 458, 468-470, 473, 475, 483-484, 520; Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, July 7-December 31, 1776 *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 12, [145](#); Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution *Archives of Maryland Online* vol. 18, [335](#).

[6] Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, 1781-1784, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 48, [343](#); Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, July 7-December 31, 1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 12, [125](#), [255](#); Journal of the Maryland Convention July 26 to August 14, 1775, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 11, [50](#); Proceedings of the Conventions of the Province of Maryland, 1774-1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 78, [23](#); Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, August 29, 1775 to July 6, 1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 11, [439](#); Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, January 1-March 20, 1777, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 16, [334](#).

[7] Thatcher, 45, 73, 476; Proceedings of the Conventions of the Province of Maryland, 1774-1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 78, [92](#).

[8] Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, 1779-1780, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 43, [71](#).

[9] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, July 7-December 31, 1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 12, [4](#); Tacyn, 33-34.

[10] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, August 29, 1775 to July 6, 1776, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 11, [318](#), [468](#); Tacyn, 37, 39.

[11] Arthur Alexander, "How Maryland Tried to Raise Her Continental Quotas." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 42, no. 3 (1947), 187-188, 196.

[12] "Mortuary Notice," *Salem Gazette*, Salem, Massachusetts, March 1, 1833, Vol. XI, issue 18, p. 3.

[13] Revolutionary War Rolls, NARA M246, p. 92, From Fold3.com; Tacyn, 98.

[14] Tacyn, 4.

[15] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, January 1-March 20, 1777, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 16, [47](#), [48](#); Deposition about the statements of John Ross, Sub-

Sheriff in Baltimore, December 23, 1776, Maryland State Papers, Red Books, Red Book 13, MdHR 4575-179 [MSA S989-19, 1/6/4/7]. For the full story, see the Finding the Maryland 400 research blog post, "[A “little groggy”: the deputy sheriff of Baltimore and his “bowl of toddy.”](#)"

[16] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, January 1-March 20, 1777, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 16, [46](#), [47](#).

[17] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, January 1-March 20, 1777, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 16, [60](#), [83](#); Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, 1769-1770, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 62, [387](#), [403](#); Journal and Correspondence of the Council of Maryland, April 1, 1778 through October 26, 1779, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 21, [568](#).

[18] [List of Regular Officers by Chamberlaine](#), December 1776, Maryland State Papers, Red Books, MdHR 4573, Liber 12, p. 66 [MSA S989-17, 1/6/4/5].

[19] Journal and Correspondence of the Maryland Council of Safety, January 1-March 20, 1777, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 16, [47](#).

[20] Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 18, [119](#), [518](#); Service Card of John Hardman, Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War, National Archives, NARA M881, Record Group 93, Roll 0400. Courtesy of Fold3.com.

[21] Pension of Stephen Lewis Bowen, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group 15, Roll 0301, pension number S. 34,661. Courtesy of Fold3.com; Pension of Michael Conley, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group 15, Roll 0627, pension number W. 1240. Courtesy of Fold3.com; Muster rolls of the Second Maryland Regiment, Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783, National Archives, NARA M246, Record Group 93, Roll 0033, Folder 15. Courtesy of Fold3.com; Pension of Neals Jones, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group 15, Roll 1443, pension number S. 36,023. Courtesy of Fold3.com; John Hardman's Account of Deserters, April 9, 1779, Maryland State Papers, Series A, MdHR 6636-13-102 [MSA S1004-15-3944, 1/7/3/31]; Pay to Lt. John Hardman for recruiting, April 19, 1779, Maryland State Papers, Series A, MdHR 6636-16-125/7 [MSA S1004-19-4090, 1/7/3/33]; Pay to Lt. John Hardman for recruiting, May 24, 1779, Maryland State Papers, Series A, MdHR 6636-16-126/12 [MSA S1004-19-4310, 1/7/3/33]; "Eight Dollars Reward," *Pennsylvania Journal, or, Weekly Advertiser*, Philadelphia, May 28, 1777, issue 1791, p. 4.

[22] Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the U.S. Army* Vol. 1 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), 273.

[23] Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, *Archives of Maryland Online* Vol. 18, [119](#); Pension of Francis Freeman, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group

15, Roll 1022, pension number S. 35951. Courtesy of Fold3.com; Pension of Michael Hartman, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, National Archives, NARA M804, Record Group 15, Roll 1210, pension number W. 3680. Courtesy of Fold3.com; [Capt John Hardman gravestone](#), *Find A Grave*, accessed October 20, 2016. The birth date on this Find A Grave is incorrect.

[24] Service Card of John Hardman.

[25] War Department, *General Orders and Circulars: 1906* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907), 155; Harry Gratwick, *The Forts of Maine: Silent Sentinels of the Pine Tree State* (Charleston: The History Press, 2013), 57.

<http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/017300/017300/html/17300bio.html>